

The changing world order

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- To Dr. Donald Hsu, for resuming the e-Leader Conferences fostering progress through knowledge worldwide
- To Dr. Sam Owarish, my brother, for being a constant encouragement to me

INTRODUCTION

Sam Owarish: “The paper highlights the major challenges currently facing our world. It also focuses on some of the problems requiring urgent attention and offers solutions in broad brushstrokes. Progressive and regressive forces are at war after a lull. Instead of large military budget of the super powers, the resources should be used to address the many issues facing mankind. The tragedy is that we have the solutions and the means, but foolish politics and self-interests are compounding the problems.”

The World Order we know it

- Has been fairly stable for decades with some issues such as regional and local conflicts

The United Nations

- played a stabilizing role; the cold war ended; communist regimes went through transformation; dialogues east-west, north-south

Global and regional matters

North Korea became a question which warrants attention

China-Taiwan relation remains on the table

In recent years several major matters impacted the world order

- 1) The Covid pandemic became a dominant issue
- 2) Climate change
- 3) War in Ukraine
- 4) Global economic downturn
- 5) Poverty in a large number of countries
- 6) Technological competition

Key players

- the powerful nations, the blocs or groups, international organizations, regional organizations

Winners of the reshuffling

- China's outreach, ASEAN plus x (Singapore's example is worth emulating), MENA, India, BRICS, South Korea as a technological powerhouse, Taiwan as a technological powerhouse, North Korea as a military power, Turkey as a power broker

Key questions

- Is the east-west divide still relevant?
How about the north-south divide?
- Role of the West as the East gains ground
- Russia?

The United Nations

- A useful forum
- What is the impact of the general debate in the UN General Assembly
- The organization needs restructuring since it was configured right after the second world war and there have been many changes since then

Tools to address conflicts

- Negotiation to end war
- Bilateral and multilateral for water and food for all (from vertical farming to hydroponics to desalination); growing rice with sea water
- Quiet diplomacy
- Mediation

Emerging world 1

- Instability as a way of life
- It is not a matter of big winning over small but smart
- Who wants a world war or even a regional war with major impact worldwide
- Metaverse is up for grab

Emerging world 2

- Currently there is also a technological race: EU, USA, China and India.

Emerging world 3

- Digital currency

Emerging world 4

Mass movement of populations and immigration issues

Emerging world 5

Who will win the AI race

Emerging world 6

- Gender issues

Emerging world 7

- Movies in 3-D
- Growing use of holograms
- Everybody can be an actor

Emerging world 8

- Where does YouTube go next?

Concluding thought by Dr. Sam Owarish

- “All current world leaders want the best for their people. The war in Ukraine is a wakeup call for all of us, showing how a regional war can affect the whole world. All countries want to be prosperous and technologically advance. These objectives can only be achieved by cooperation and peaceful co-existence, recognizing that interdependence is real. All political systems have their flaws. Human rights and social justice should be upheld in each and every country in line with principles which UN Member States have worked together to develop.”